

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the instant application. Claims 22-24 were previously cancelled. By this amendment, applicants have amended Claims 1-21. Accordingly, entry of the foregoing claim amendments is respectfully requested.

The three pending independent claims, i.e., claims 1, 20 and 21, are amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim what the applicants regard as their invention. In particular, the needle, needle hub, needle tip and needle bore have been presented in such a way as to remove any doubt as to their positive recitation in every claim. Claims 2-19 are amended merely to conform the preamble to the base claim.

Based on these clarifications, applicants believe that the claims, as they have been amended, are distinguished from the prior art. As such, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejection

Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as anticipated by Quinn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,387,052). Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim what the applicants regard as their invention. In particular, the needle, needle hub, needle tip and needle bore have been presented in such a way as to remove any doubt as to their positive recitation in every claim.. By amendment of Claim 1, and thereby each of claims 2-18, the claims are distinguished from Quinn et al. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejections

Claims 8, 16 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quinn et al. Claims 8, 16 and 19 ultimately depend from Claim 1 and have been amended as discussed regarding the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection. In addition, claims 20 and 21 have been amended in the same way as Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

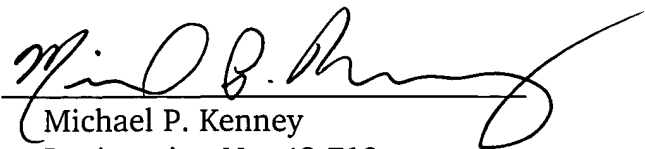
In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the various rejections set forth in the February 23, 2007 Office Action, and earnestly solicit allowance of the claims currently pending, namely claims 1-21.

This Amendment is in response to an Office Action dated February 23, 2007. Thus, it is believed that this Amendment is being timely filed. In addition, it is believed that no fee is necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. If any fee is required to maintain the pendency of the subject application, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted

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